

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 11, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 11, 1844.

My Dear General, I was just wending my way to the senate to hear the last dying speeches and confessions of Federalism on the Judge Hall fine case , when I met the body on the pavement, adjourned at two o'clock, having past the Bill almost without a fight. It was 30 to 16. Some poor devils skulked, some apologized, some denied the rights of instruction yet felt their consciences so mollified by the force of public opinion, that they voted for it against their convictions and wishes!! The fear of the effect in the approaching presidential election cured their obstinacy. Poor Berrien was disappointed in his long hoarded malice against you by the cowardice of his friends. This will be a delightful reflection for such a man, so long lying in wait and hoping you would die before you heard the voice of the country finally announced, doing you this last solemn homage in an act of justice. I rejoice that it has been wrung from a reluctant Tory senate by the voice of the people. It is as if Hall himself were called from his grave to undo his foul wrong. Those who were condemned to doubt by the indignant nation, are animated by his malignity against you and the cause that triumphs in you.

But I expect another bitter pill will be presented to them to swallow. A member of the senate told me the other day, that he would offer a resolution that a committee of the House or one of its high officers be appointed to carry the money to the Hermitage and there present it to you in person and in the name of Congress as the restitution for your wronged honor and insulted patriotism. I think it was Buchannan or Haywood of North

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Carolina. I have no doubt it will be done, if after consulting the party it consists with their sense of policy. Of its propriety there is no doubt. And if the move should be made and be merely defeated by a whig vote I think it would not be amiss to let it lie in the Treasury until another congress gives this tory spoliation legs to carry it to the Hermitage in the way of repentance. If the amount should in the meantime be at all necessary to Andrews Affairs, I can advance it for him. But this is a mere crude suggestion of mine, made on the spur of the moment which your better judgment will weigh at its worth.

I have been a little sick for several days but am now well again. Your good friend, Mrs. Catron dines with us this evening with some excellent Senate Democrats Haywood, Huger , etc. and some fine gents who will drink your health with me and promise to teach their hoped for progeny of future years to emulate your renown and success. Betsy bids me send love, and her mother too. Rachel's pretty letter was received and numbered. Yours with the lock of hair came safe and I have given away 0284 260 what I will spare of it. Pray present me most affectionately to Mrs. Jackson and believe me most truly yours,